

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A dispersion or solution of a polymer in water, organic solvents or mixtures thereof, wherein the polymer comprises at least 0.001 mol of 3,4 dihydroxyphenyl groups (calculated at 109 g/mol) per 100 g of polymer.

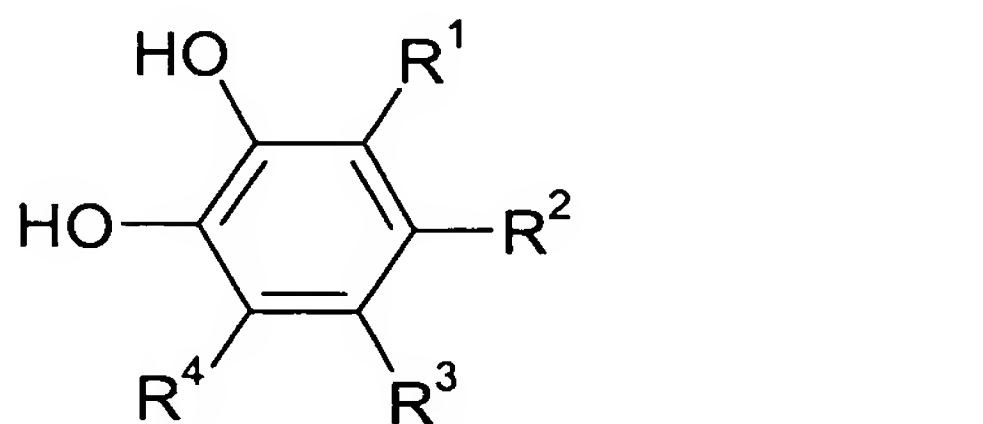
Claim 2 (Original): The dispersion or solution according to claim 1, which is an aqueous dispersion or solution.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The dispersion or solution according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the polymer is a polymer obtainable by free-radical addition polymerization of ethylenically unsaturated compounds.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The dispersion or solution according to ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the polymer is synthesized from at least 40% by weight of principal monomers selected from C₁ to C₂₀ alkyl (meth)acrylates, vinyl esters of carboxylic acids comprising up to 20 carbon atoms, vinylaromatics having up to 20 carbon atoms, ethylenically unsaturated nitriles, vinyl halides, vinyl ethers of alcohols comprising 1 to 10 carbon atoms, aliphatic hydrocarbons having 2 to 8 carbon atoms and one or two double bonds or mixtures of these monomers.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The dispersion or solution according to ~~one of claims 3 and 4~~ claim 4, wherein the 3,4 dihydroxyphenyl groups are present in the polymer by copolymerization with monomers containing 3,4 dihydroxyphenyl groups.

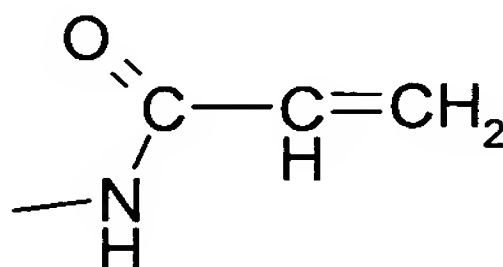
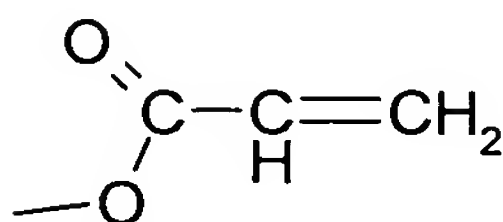
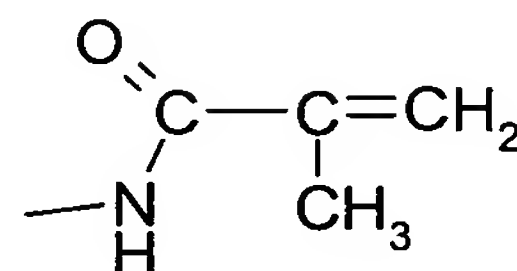
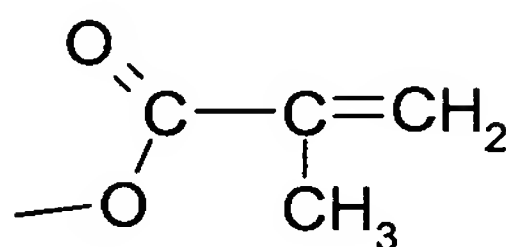
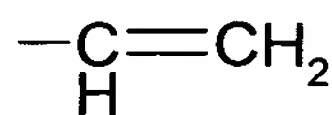
Claim 6 (Original): The dispersion or solution according to claim 5, wherein the monomers containing 3,4 dihydroxyphenyl groups are those of the formula



in which at least one of the radicals R¹ to R⁴ is an organic radical comprising at least one free-radically polymerizable ethylenically unsaturated group, may consist in total of up to 50 carbon atoms and if appropriate also comprises heteroatoms such as O, N or S, and the remaining radicals are organic radicals without a copolymerizable group or are hydrogen.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The dispersion or solution according to claim 5 [[or 6]], wherein the monomers containing 3,4 dihydroxyphenyl groups are those in which at least one of the radicals R¹ to R⁴ is a group -Y-X, where

X is selected from



and

Y is a single bond or is a divalent spacer group having up to 30 carbon atoms and if appropriate heteroatoms such as O, N or S.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The dispersion or solution according to ~~one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 4, wherein the glass transition temperature of the polymer is less than +10°C, preferably less than 0°C.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The dispersion or solution according to ~~one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 7, wherein the pH of the dispersion or solution is less than 7.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The ~~[[use of]]~~ method of using the dispersion or solution according to ~~one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 as adhesive, sealant, coating material or impregnating composition.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The ~~[[use]]~~ method of using according to claim 10, wherein the dispersion or solution is stored oxygen-free prior to use and comes into contact with oxygen only upon use.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The ~~[[use]]~~ according to claim ~~[[10 or]]~~ 11, wherein the dispersion or solution has a pH of less than 4 prior to use and this pH is increased to more than 4 upon use.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The ~~[[use]]~~ method of using according to ~~one of claims 10 to 12~~ claim 10, wherein the use takes place under water.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): Free-radically polymerizable monomers containing 3,4 dihydroxyphenyl groups and at least one free-radically polymerizable double bond, obtainable by reacting compounds I of claim 6 having a 3,4 dihydroxyphenyl group which is

substituted by at least one further organic radical containing a hydroxyl group or carboxyl group with compounds II which contain at least one free-radically polymerizable double bond and at least one group which is reactive toward compounds I, [[e.g.,]] selected from a hydroxyl, carboxyl or epoxy group.

Claim 15 (Original): Monomers according to claim 14, wherein compounds I are substituted by a hydroxyalkyl group and compounds II comprise an ethylenically unsaturated acid.

Claim 16 (Original): Monomers according to claim 14, wherein compounds I are substituted by a carboxyl group and compounds II comprise ethylenically unsaturated epoxides.